

**TOWN COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Present were Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Weiner and Councilmembers Clark, Cox and Paul. Also present were Interim Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar, and Acting Town Clerk McDaniel recording the meeting.

1. Neptune Aquaculture Incorporated

Vice-Mayor Weiner advised that this item was withdrawn at the request of the vendor.

2. Pine Island Ridge Annexation

Mr. Willi stated that the Town had been approached by the Pine Island Ridge Board of Governors with a draft bill which included interrogatories between Pine Island and the Town. He indicated that the interrogatories discussed completion of improvements which included drainage at Pine Island Road and Orange Grove Drive, replacement of all four foot asphalt walkways, landscaping of Pine Island Road between State Road 84 and Nova Drive, and the widening of Pine Island Road.

Councilmember Cox mentioned finding out what Broward County planned for roadway acquisition with regard to Pine Island Road.

In response to Mayor Venis' request, Budget and Finance Director Christopher Wallace gave an overview of the financial impact of the proposed annexation. He advised that it would be a "money maker" for the Town with law enforcement being the only service added as Code enforcement, recreation, and fire protection would not be affected. Mr. Wallace indicated that net expenses to the Town would be \$800,000 to \$1.2 million. He stated that although the estimates were over a year old, he felt the range was safe and that the annexation would not be a drain on Town revenues. Mayor Venis requested an updated study. Councilmember Paul asked to see hard figures and did not want to make any presumptions based on old numbers.

Mayor Venis asked if anyone wished to speak on this issue.

John Mangione, Pine Island Ridge Board of Governors President and Chair of the annexation committee, implied that the Town was talking about annexation prematurely. He stated that all of the proposed repairs and improvements were external and had no affect on the community. Mr. Mangione advised that the area had been discussing putting an annexation referendum on the ballot in November and asked for a meeting between the Town's officials and the residents of Pine Island Ridge to get answers on issues that had not been addressed. He pointed out that the Town knew what Pine Island Ridge was going to give to the Town, but asked what Pine Island Ridge would receive in return.

Vice-Mayor Weiner asserted that there had been meetings, but the meetings had been currently stalled. He stated that it was important that meetings be held with Council to talk about what everyone's interests were. Mr. Mangione indicated that the residents had submitted a list of requests and problems that needed to be addressed. He urged that a meeting be held.

Mickey Jarrett, Pine Island Ridge, stated that they were there to listen to Council and if the Town was not ready to have a proper meeting, there was no reason for them to be there.

Norma Tanenbaum, 1707 Whitehall Drive, remembered that the Town was going to send buses to Pine Island Ridge to give them a tour of the Town. Also, that much of what

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the residents had heard about the Town had been bad. She expressed concern that the residents were “giving and not getting” and the residents would need to be convinced that the annexation was a good idea.

Mr. Willi stated that the net tax savings for Pine Island Ridge would be approximately \$101 less per year per unit, and that the County reaped far in excess of \$800,000 to \$1 million from Pine Island Ridge. He discussed letters from the County given to Mr. Mangione addressing many of the issues the residents were concerned about such as fire, police protection, senior services, noise abatement from State Road 84, transportation, deeding of private roads to the Town, etc. Mr. Willi believed that this workshop would be a good forum to discuss the issue of political representation.

Councilmember Cox felt it was appropriate to discuss the issues of street lights, flooding, and street resurfacing and that the residents should have the opportunity to meet all the Councilmembers.

Ms. Jarrett agreed, stating that there was a list of their problems; however, they had never gotten answers. She also encouraged that a meeting be held at Pine Island Ridge.

Vice-Mayor Weiner stated that there was frustration by the residents when the meetings discontinued and the workshop had been set up for the Council to hear what the residents had to say.

Regarding antiquated street lights which were costly to repair, Mr. Mangione stated that the residents were looking for new street lighting. It was stated that FP&L had a program to provide lighting, but nothing similar to what would need to be replaced. In response to Councilmember Cox, Mr. Mangione stated that the residents would be willing to lose the “ambiance” in order to get new, more adequate lighting. Mayor Venis suggested sending out engineers and obtaining a report. Councilmember Cox requested that FP&L’s lighting program be reviewed to see what it could offer. Ms. Jarrett suggested that Pine Island Ridge representatives go with the engineers to help provide necessary details.

Concerning the flooding at the eastern entrance of Pine Island Ridge at Orange Grove Drive, the County was taking care of that problem; however, it was suggested that a time frame be obtained to see when the project was slated for completion.

Regarding the resurfacing of local streets, Vice-Mayor Weiner advised that since the streets were mostly private roads, the County would not agree to resurface. The three roads the County was responsible for were in good condition. Ms. Jarrett argued that most of the roads were not privately owned. Councilmember Cox suggested that the Town’s engineer take a look at the roads to see if they met the Town’s standards and criteria.

Concerning planting trees in the median between 24th Street and State Road 84, Mr. Willi stated that the County was recommending funding for additional landscaping if the Town agreed to maintain the landscaping. He indicated that the Town had agreed to this.

Ms. Jarrett asked about being included in the discount for water from the City of Sunrise. Mr. Kiar asked if Pine Island Ridge was being charged a surcharge and what the rate differences were. Discussion continued regarding the agreement with Sunrise and its influence on current water services being provided to Pine Island Ridge by Sunrise. An unidentified man stated that this matter was probably the most important issue to be resolved.

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Mr. Kiar discussed the issue of the Town providing fire/EMS services versus the County providing the service.

Mayor Venis asked if bulk bills were received from the City of Sunrise. Ms. Tanenbaum stated that the homes received separate bills, but the condominiums received bulk billing. Councilmember Cox proposed that if Pine Island Ridge teamed up with the Town, there may be more political clout with the State legislators regarding the 25% surcharge.

Terry Marter, Board of Governors and President of Whitehall Condominium, spoke regarding a previous meeting they had with Mayor Venis regarding the surcharge and joining in on a class action suit.

Ed Goldberg, President of the Pine Island Ridge Civic Organization, asserted that a direct approach over the long range was for the Town to buy out Sunrise's franchise.

Mayor Venis indicated that one political issue was representation on Council. Councilmember Clark and Vice-Mayor Weiner explained the Town's Charter requirements for redistricting.

Police Chief John George gave an overview of a Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) service comparison. He offered to provide a higher level of service through the Town than what BSO was currently offering.

Arthur Smith, President of the Condo Association at Pine Island Ridge, asked what the Town was going to do with regard to security services, and that providing the same services as BSO was unsatisfactory as the residents were currently paying for off-duty BSO deputies to supplement police coverage. He asked about additional services and the advantages of annexing with the Town at this time or waiting until a later date to annex. Chief George addressed the manning of officers in Pine Island Ridge, giving a breakdown of the current expanse of the Police Department.

Acting Deputy Fire Chief Sid Marchant provided answers to questions regarding fire/EMS services available for Pine Island Ridge.

Parks and Recreation Director Sharon Kent proposed adding additional recreational opportunities and described the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She discussed the Town's parks and facilities, and invited the Pine Island Ridge residents to join the currently scheduled parks tour.

It was discussed that a community meeting would be set up at the Pine Island Ridge clubhouse with Mr. Willi suggesting that the meeting be held in early January.

There being no objections or further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

APPROVED _____

Mayor/Councilmember

Town Clerk